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USDRIP / Riverway Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 17, 2008

1. Attendees:

Devon Muto, Carl Stiehl, Joe Farace, Hugo Mora, John Thomas, Steve Halfaker, George Tockstein, Ed Duling, Harold Hilliker, Frank Hilliker, Bruce Robertson, Rick Smith, Maryanne Vancio, Robin Rierdan and Raul Armenta.

2. Updates:

- Unfortunately Caltrans was unable to make the meeting and therefore they were removed from the preliminary agenda. Caltrans has advised that they will attend the next Stakeholder Meeting in May to address the Stakeholder's concerns about HWY 67 and the interchanges.
- DPLU is continuing to working on finalizing the RFQ for a Redevelopment Consultant to help with Bonding, Grants and Financial issues with the Redevelopment Agency.
- Maryanne Vancio gave an update about the Trail System. Parks is looking at connecting the trails along the southwestern portion of the new Ballfields to the City of Santee, but this has not happened yet. Parks is interested in incorporating more access points and loops into the trail network in the Redevelopment Area. At the undercrossing of Riverford, Parks does have an easement. Robin Rierdan informed us that the River Park tried to get a grant for the trail segment including the undercrossing, but they did not have enough cash for the project. The Grantor would want 25% of the grant to come from local funds, this would amount to about \$200,000. The River Park is currently looking at doing some trail improvements along the southern portion of the River near the planned Maplevue Extension. Maryanne stated that there may be a possible trail crossing at the dike below the Channel Bridge and another near the 67 Bridge. This would create two much needed loops to allow for crossing. Trail connections from the north and east are very important to include the people who live in the Lakeside area, including people in Eucalyptus Hills. There was some discussion of the crossings and connections of the trails in the riverbed. The River Park may need some help with CEQA analysis/documents when it comes to these crossings. The agencies who regulate the riverbed may be difficult. However, the Specific Plan and EIR had provisions for trails with crossings, therefore there should be a way to do an SPA or Addendum to the EIR for these trails.

- Stakeholders brought up the idea of refreshment stands (Bruce's Snowcones) along or near to the trail system. There are provisions in the Specific Plan mainly with Minor Use Permits in most of the zones for eating and drinking establishments, including along major portions of the existing and proposed trail system.
- George Tockstein mentioned that the last bid for the HWY 52 construction is soon to go out and the 52 should be completed on time in 2010. Therefore, work on connecting Mast should begin before then.
- The new spreadsheet with the Prioritization of the Redevelopment Projects was circulated for review. The top project as referenced on the list is the need for an Affordable Housing project. Additionally, in the next tier of prioritization are the other major projects currently being discussed by the Stakeholders, such as Parks/Trails, Riverford, Mast and HWY 67. Based on the table and discussion with the Stakeholders, County staff will be undertaking some actions to pursue the highest priority projects including contacting affordable housing projects proponents and meeting with the Parks Dept. and Lakeside River Park staff.
- There was some discussion of Affordable Housing projects in and around the Redevelopment Area. The Silver Sage Condo Project has been in discussion with the Planning Group and DPLU about possibly redesigning their 80 units to Affordable. This would be a great project for the Redevelopment Area, DPLU will follow up with the Developer. Additionally, there was some discussion of Lakeside Gardens and if they intend to build additional units, DPLU will follow up.
- The Stakeholders were advised that the Roofing Contractor Site Plan should be submitted to DPLU soon and a final resubmittal of the Driven Auto Sales Site Plan is also expected soon.
- The Letter of Interest to the City of San Diego regarding the city's properties in the Redevelopment Area was delivered to the appropriate departments at the city. The County continues to express an interest in acquiring the properties.

3. Other

- Frank Hilliker asked if we could think about advertising USDRIP and if we had thought about a hotel in the River Park especially for people using the Ballfields in tournaments, etc. He also mentioned that next week is Western Week in Lakeside and major events are coming up including the Lakeside Rodeo and Lakeside Parade.

4. Next Meeting – Thursday, May 15